



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 33, No. 3

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Whole No. 124

Notes from the Editor

David J. Leeds

P.O.Box 491472

Los Angeles, CA 90049

(310) 472-0282

davidleeds@compuserve.com

In December 1995 I alerted the Officers of CZSG that it was time to shop around for a new Editor. I expressed my willingness to help in any way that I can, short of the final assembly, paste-up, and timely production of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. The warning has been periodically repeated, and is now final. I expect to complete this calendar year with CZP 125, for a total of 23 issues which started with CZP 103, the Second Quarter of 1992.

Input to the new Editor, in the form of articles, and the continuation of the ABNCo Archive Series (with Jim Crumpacker and Gary B. Weiss) will continue, as will any specific assignments. The same strong staff support will continue with the President's Report, Secretary's Report (John C. Smith), Advertising (Richard Spielberg), Auction Results (Jim Crumpacker), Reviews (David L. Farnsworth), Proofreading (Richard Salz).

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Meeting Notices

SESCAL 97, Wyndham Hotel, LAX, Los Angeles, CA, October 3-5, 1997. Contact: Your Editor.

THAMESPEX97, Waterford High School, Rope Ferry Road, Route 156, Waterford, CT 06385, October 26, 1997. Contact: Alan P. Bentz, 52 Core Road, Stonington CT, 06637-2300.

ARIPEX 98, Mesa, AZ, Sheraton Mesa Hotel, 200 No. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ, January 16-18, 1998. CZSG Meeting 1:00pm Saturday.

SANDICAL 98, San Diego, CA, January 30-February 1, 1998. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South. CZSG Meeting, Saturday, January 31.

ABNCo Panama Coat of Arms Postal Stationery, Canal Zone U5, UX6

by Irwin J. Gibbs

In October 1923 the Republic of Panama placed an order with the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) for 1c and 2c stamped envelopes and a 1c postal card. The design was to be the Coat of Arms of the Republic.

The entire production file for this issue was present in the 1990 Christie's sale of ABNCo archives. Included in the file was artwork, notes, essays/models, and proofs for both the Panama and Canal Zone stationery issues. The completed specimens were in separate lots. Previous articles on ABNCo Canal Zone Specimens have been concerned with the archived sheets of finished stamps and stationery. This present article is supported by the unique material of the "Production File" such as sketches and proofs.

The original Panama order suggested that a Costa Rica embossed envelope should be the guide. The Costa Rica (Waterlow) Issue of 1890 best meets this criterion, Fig. 1, that is, a colorless

and denomination. The vignette of other Costa Rica denominations and color changes show an embossed colorless bust of Columbus. The envelopes were to be on good quality white paper, embossed with the Coat of Arms of Panama, litho-



Fig. 2. Sketch, Coat of Arms Design

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Fig. 1. 1890 Costa Rica Design.

embossed vignette of the coat of arms, surrounded by an oval with country name

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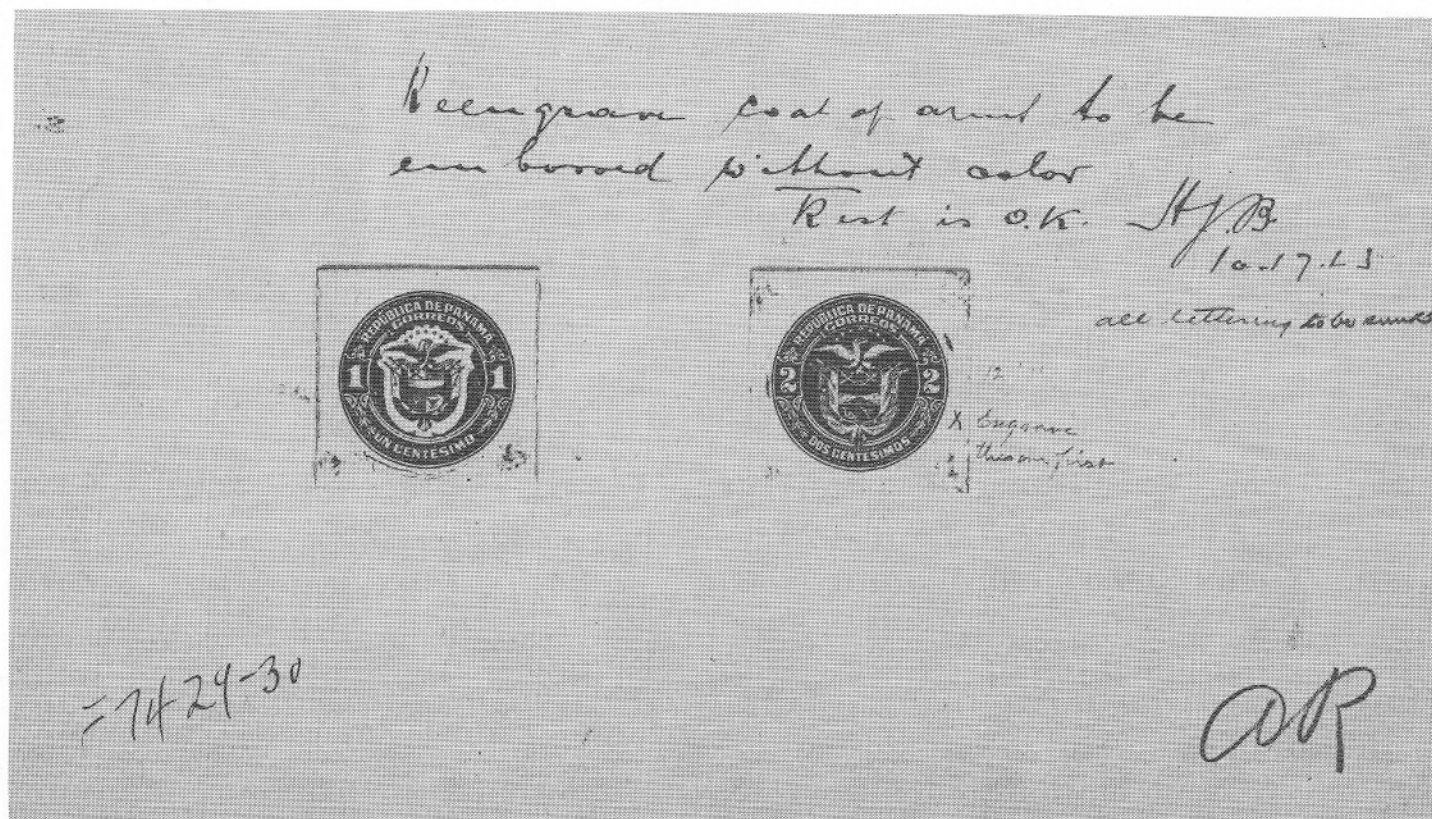


Fig. 3. Composite Models

(Continued from page 25)

graphed, and without gum. The order was assigned numbers F7429 and F7430.

The original rough pen and ink sketch of the design is shown in Fig. 2. Engraving was contracted to the Charles Magenfohr Company of New York City. A composite model, Fig. 3, was made. Then a photographic model and trial impression was prepared, Fig. 4. Finally, a "last proof" was completed, Fig. 5.

In November 1923 Canal Zone authorities ordered 150,000 1c envelopes, 250,000 2c envelopes (Scott U5) and 150,000 1c postal cards (Scott UX6) of the Coat of Arms design with Canal Zone "overprint". They were assigned the same order numbers as the Panama order, F7429 and F7430.

Final Canal Zone proofs were submitted and approved: the 1c on December 10, 1923, and the 2c on December 12, 1923.

An archive copy of the 2c Canal Zone specimen envelope is shown as Fig. 6. The 1c postal card specimen is shown as Fig. 7. The unissued 1c envelope is shown with its Index Card as Fig. 8. This appears to be the only copy remaining of the 1c envelope. The specimens are all punched "SPECIMEN/ABNCo, measuring 54 by 20 mm, and are all rare. Details are provided in the Table.

While the order called for a CANAL ZONE "overprint", the curved CANAL

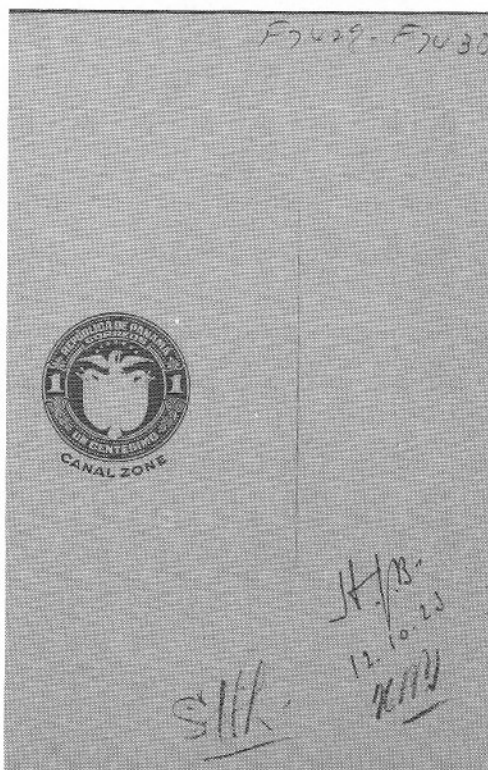


Fig. 4. 1c Trial Impression.

ZONE inscription 1½mm below the design is not an "overprint" but an integral part of the single color lithographic impression. This is the first of the round design stamped envelopes used in the

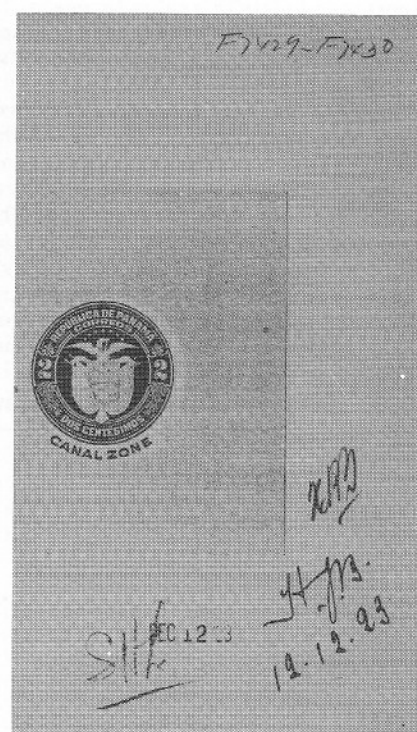


Fig. 5. 2c "Last Proof".

Canal Zone and has the only curved CANAL ZONE imprint. The Coat of Arms vignette is colorless embossed (as in the Costa Rica model).

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Specimen and Proof Specifications

New UPSS No.	Denomination	Specimen Description	Red F#	Number of Specimens
—	1c Envelope (Unissued)	Punched "SPECIMEN/ A.B.N.Co", 54 x 20 mm	F7429	1*
5S	2c Envelope (Scott U5)	(as above)	F7429	4**
S13S	1c Card (Scott UX6)	(as above)	F7430	3*

* Also, one Index Card.

** One with purple box (61.5 x 16.2 mm)

"Return to RECORD & SPECI-
MEN DEPT."

References:

John J. Blessington, Editor, *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*,
United Postal Stationery Society, 1985.

Philip L. Dade and Gustavo Schay, *The Story of Canal Zone Stamps*, ms., 1950.

Three shipments of this issue of postal
stationery were received by the CZPO:
Dec. 15, 1923 100,000 2c envelopes
Jan. 11, 1924 100,000 1c envelopes
150,000 2c envelopes
50,000 1c postal cards
Feb. 7, 1924 100,000 1c postal cards
50,000 1c envelopes.



Fig. 7. 1c Scott UX6 Archive Specimen.

In 1937 all 150,000 of the 1c envelopes were incinerated. It is estimated that not more than 60,000 of the 1c postal cards were sold. The 2c envelope quantity sold was 46,041, the balance destroyed.

Reasons for withholding sale of the 1c envelopes are purely speculative but could be a reluctance to introduce a new design until existing supplies were sold; simply an oversupply or lack of need of additional stocks. The 1916 1c (Scott U1) was still in use through 1923 and into 1924. The records indicate that 350,000 of U1 were delivered but that none was burned. However, there was still a surplus of the 1921 issue (Scott U3) since 29,319 of the 50,000 placed on sale were incinerated at the final cleanup in 1937.

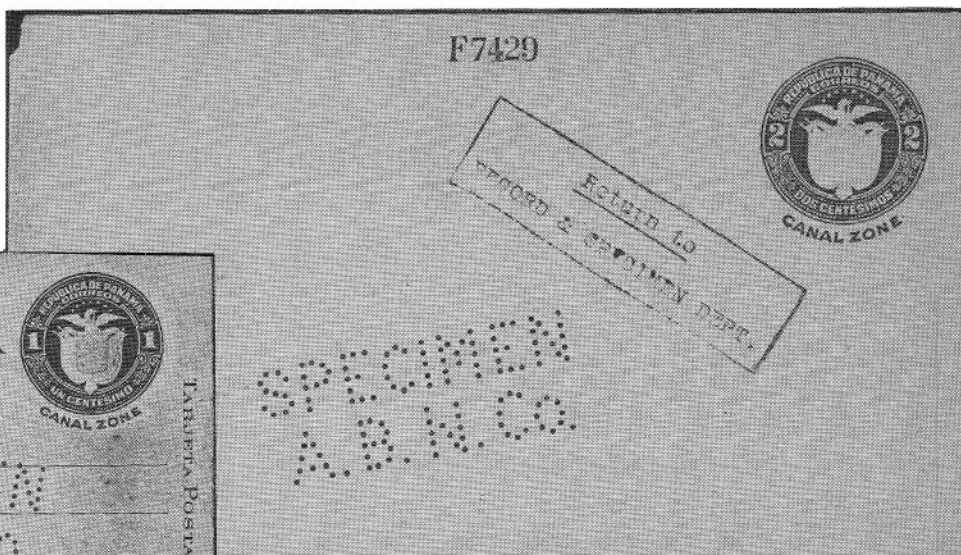


Fig. 6. 2c Scott U5 Archive Specimen.

Input from Gary B. Weiss and David J. Leeds is appreciated.

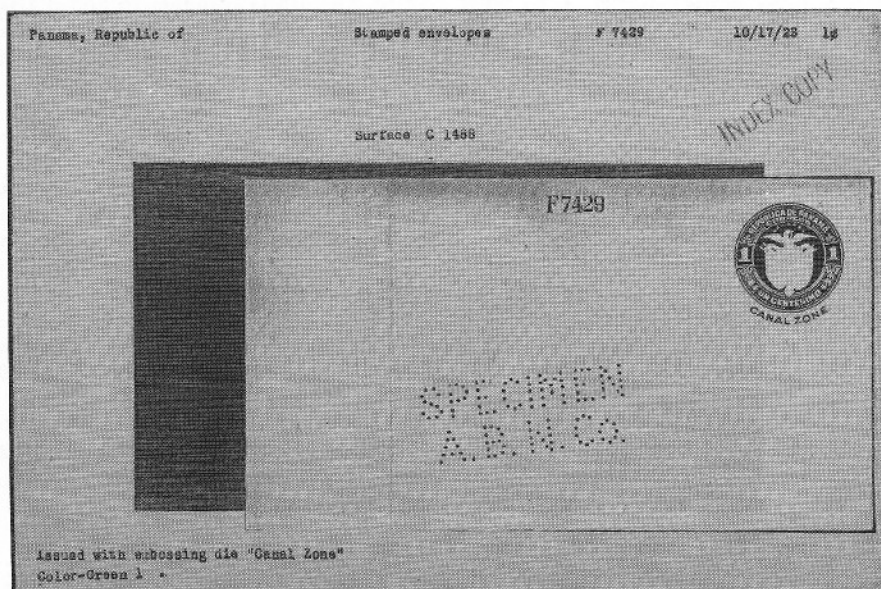


Fig. 8. 1c Archive Index File Card with Unissued Specimen Envelope.

71a on Cover

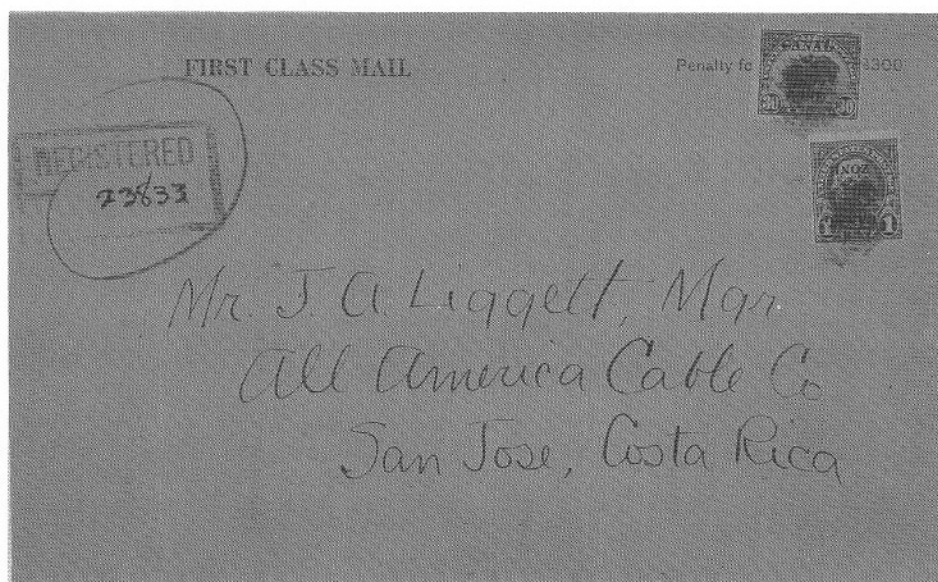
by Gernot Stephan

A registered cover¹, ex. Tows, franked with Canal Zone 1¢ flat A inverted overprint, Scott No. 71a and No. 79, was sold recently at auction in Germany and has been authenticated by APEX.

The flat top A overprint issues were issued July 1924. The 1¢ value was overprinted in sheets of 400, which were later cut into post office panes of 100. The 1¢ denomination was used primarily for postal cards, local drop letter rate, and third class mailings.

Only one pane of 71a was ever found, the other three probably having been destroyed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The error was reportedly discovered in March 1925 by a messenger in the Port Captain's Office in Cristobal². He noticed the error stamp on four post cards bought by a pilot and helped to discover 47 more copies in the Cristobal post office and obtained them for J.W. Coffin, a clerk in the Port Captain's office.

The envelope of the cover is of stiff manila paper, an official penalty envelope of original size 128x300 mm; it has since been trimmed. As shown, the cover was sent registered mail from Cristobal to Mr. J.A. Liggett, Manager All American Cable Company in San Jose, Costa Rica. The 31¢ postage was paid with a 1c (71a) and 30¢ (79) stamps, both being defaced with smeared mute killers. Three faint registered cancels are on the back together



Scott 71a, CANAL ZONE inverted, used March 21, 1925.

with the remains of three signets (wax seals). The reconstructed postmarks are two from Cristobal (March 21, 1925) and one from San Jose (March 23, 1925). The 31 cent postage would pay a 15 cent registry fee and postage of 16 cents. At the then current 2 cents per ounce rate, the envelope would have weighed 8 ounces - reasonable for its original size.

The March 21, 1925 usage date corroborates the story of discovery of the unused stamps at the Cristobal P.O. Only time

will tell if any of the apparently remaining 50 copies will show on cover.

References

¹ Carl E. Pelander, *Auction Catalog: Ferrars H. Tows Collection of Panama, Canal Zone and Haiti*. February 16th/19th, 1949, New York.

² Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster and Richard H. Salz, *Canal Zone Stamps*, (1986), Pg. 138, The Canal Zone Study Group.

Other Publications

"FAM 5 First Dispatches, Costa Rica to Canal Zone and Panama, March 13, 1930", CZSG Member Allan M. Harris, in *The Airpost Journal*, September 1997, pp 385-389. Harris gives the rationale for the several postmark dates of the flight derived from contemporary U.S. Post Office *Post Office Bulletins*. The article is similar to that published the June 1997 issue of *COPACARTA* and mentioned in *CZP* 123:14.

"Rare 1979 Canal Zone stamp found on last-day P.O. cover", Wayne L. Youngblood, in *Stamp Collector*, July 29, 1996, p. 1, 24. The article describes a tagged 5¢ Stevens on a last day (Balboa) P.O. cover, and also gives a good review of the background of the stamp. The author suggests searching for the stamp on mail dated between March and September 1979. The *CZP* Editor would be interested in knowing if additional copies are found on cover. The author also solicited the same news.

CZP Wanted

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, in Denver, is looking for the donation of a complete, (or partial) run of the *Canal Zone Philatelist*. At the moment they have only a few scattered issues but would like to complete their file. Any of the Handbooks would also be welcome. So, if some retiring member would like to do his good deed the RMPL will provide a happy home for your donation. The Library is located at 3005D, South Peoria Street, Aurora, Colorado.

Your Editor visited the Library this year while a Judge at ROMPEX. It is a going concern in a permanent site, with dedicated members. Due to the downsizing of a local corporation they even have adequate shelving, fixtures, and furniture. I was impressed. Please contact Donald G. Beuthel, CS 27, Box 906, 8007 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215. (303) 368-0345. UPS address: 8040 E. Dartmouth #17, Denver CO 80231. They will reimburse shipping cost, if necessary.

U.S. Panama Canal Commemorative

The USPS has announced that "the opening of the Panama Canal will be saluted on the upcoming Celebrate the Century stamp series." (*Linn's Stamp News*, June 23, 1997). No new information has been noted. The stamp is to be included with the first 15, marking the second decade of the century. It would make more sense to issue it on the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Canal. It is hoped that at least the USPS can provide first day services there, either at an APO on one of the few bases or on shipboard as in the case of the U.S. 1939 Panama Canal 25th Anniversary Issue.

Errata

Apologies for the typos in Julius Grigore's ad on page 24 of our last issue. His address was correct, just a little bit extra thrown in. See the corrected ad on the back page of this issue.

Scott # 39: 2c Cordoba *partial* overprints

by Richard Spielberg and Gary B. Weiss

The 2c vermilion and black Cordoba Type II overprint, Scott No. 39, was printed between December 1912 and October 1917. A later printing has 9 1/4mm spacing between CANAL and ZONE, except for the sixth vertical row which is known to have 8 1/2mm spacing¹. *Canal Zone Stamps* (CZS) describes a strip of four with partial overprints², and these are listed in the *Check List* as CZSG Nos. 39.5 b-e. In the Gilbert N. Plass sale³, a large lot contained a block of 14 with missing or broken letters and this may be the basis of the listing.

Neither CZS nor this Journal has illustrated these. A block of 16 (2x8) from (right sheet) lower right marginal positions containing CZSG 39.5b - e and four additional previously unreported varieties, were sold in the recent auction of the James B. Helme collection⁴, Fig. 1. A different block of 16, from the same position of the sheet, was purchased at STAMPSHOW in Milwaukee (August 1997). It was from an old collection and under the block was noted that it was Lot 453 of the Tows sale⁵, Fig. 2. The two blocks appear very similar.

It is probable that these *partial overprints* were caused by a thin, 1 3/4 mm, piece of foreign material not allowing the (over) printing plate to be completely inked.

As seen in the accompanying illustrations, every stamp in the top row of the Helme's block, positions 83-90, have all or a portion of one or more letters of both CANAL and ZONE missing to a greater or lesser degree. The following overprints are found, and new numbers (39.5f.. i) provided for the new discoveries:

Two of the positions with partial overprints are shown below.

Overprint	Sheet position	# CZSG
CANA_ZONE	83	5.f
CANA_ZON_	84	5.b
CAN_L_ZON_	85	5.g
CAN_L_ZO_E	86	5.c
CA_AL_ZO_E	87	5.h
CA_AL_Z_NE	88	5.d
C_NAL_Z_NE	89	5.i
C_NAL_ONE	90	5.e

Interestingly, in this block of 9 1/4 mm spacing, a careful measure of the overprint, reveals 8 1/2mm spacing in positions 86 and 96, as expected, and 9 mm in position 98!

At least three or four sheets must have received the described strip of missing overprints, since two additional singles showing these varieties have recently surfaced, additional copies may exist and should be reported to the editor.

References:

¹Spacing of Type II Overprint, CZP Vol. 21 No. 2 (# 75 pg.16); ABNCo Archive study (in preparation)

²Ivy, Shreve & Mader Philatelic Auction Galleries Inc. *Auction Catalog*, The Dr. Gilbert Plass Collection, July 10, 1995, New York, lot 599

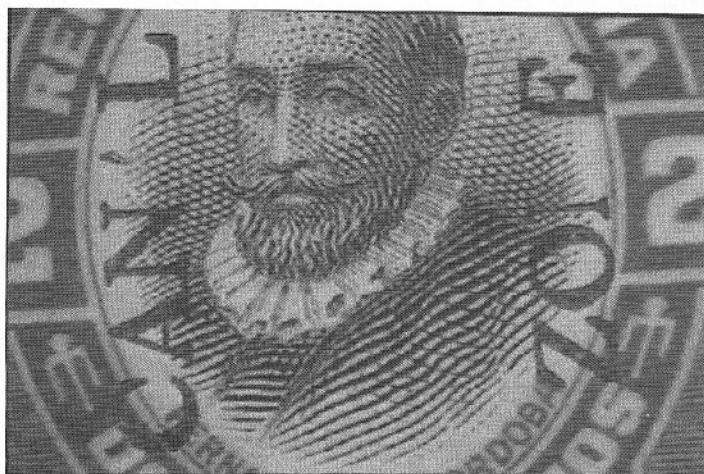
³Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster and Richard H. Salz, *Canal Zone Stamps* (1986), The Canal Zone Study Group.

⁴Shreves Philatelic Galleries, Inc. *Auction Catalog* 1996 November Collectors Series Sales November 15-16, 1996 New York, N. Y. Lot 1143

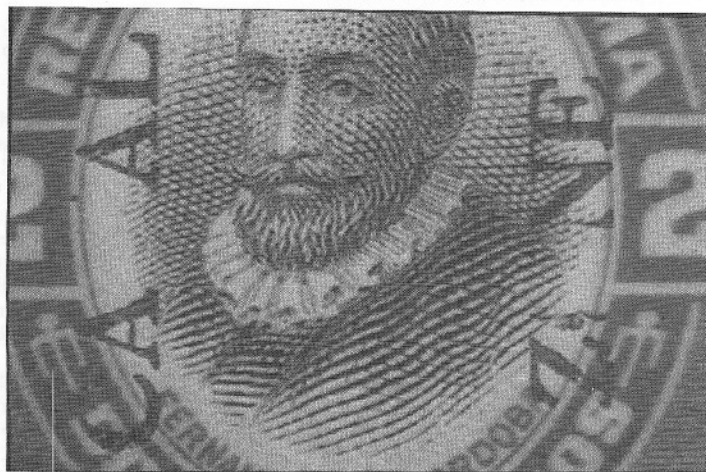
⁵Carl E. Pelander *Auction Catalog*: Ferrars H. Tows Collection of Panama, Canal Zone and Haiti. February 16th/19th, 1949 New York. Lot 453.



Fig. 1. Scott #39 Partial Overprints. From Helme's Collection.



CZSG 39.5c



CZSG 39.5d (Continued on page 31)

#39 Partial Overprint

(Continued from page 30)



Fig. 2. Scott #39 Partial Overprints
From Tows Collection

CZ Postal Markings Update

Lawson Entwistle has announced that an 8-page supplement to *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone* is to be included as a Supplement to this current issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. This will add reproductions of the additional CZ markings that he has acquired since publication of the Second Edition in 1992, Handbook No. 9.

MPO 150, Fort Randolph?

by David J. Leeds

The covers shown has Canal Zone stamps (6 cents) and is cancelled Fort Randolph April 15 1942. All is proper since numbered Canal Zone APOs did not really go into use until July 1, 1942.

The problem is that the return address is John H Pugh, USMC, % Postmaster, New York NY. Fort Randolph was an Army Coast Artillery base, with disappearing 14" guns. What was a Marine doing there? I can understand Marines at the nearby (about 2 miles) Coco Solo Submarine Base, doing guard duty instead of the Shore Patrol. But again, what was a Marine doing at the U.S. Army's Fort Randolph? And, the cover is "PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR".

Naval censorship of Marine Corp mail may be acceptable (at least to the Navy), but what was either Pugh or HPW (the Naval Censor) doing there in the first place?

Now if you go to the good book, "Numbered military post offices..." (see CZP 113:36) you will find that at this time the Marines operated MPO 150, the First Barrage Balloon Squadron which arrived at Fort Randolph Dec 30, 1941, and returned to the U.S. (on their way to Noumea, New Caledonia) in September 1942. This cover is within that time frame. Is there any way to show that this guy Pugh was a member of that Marine

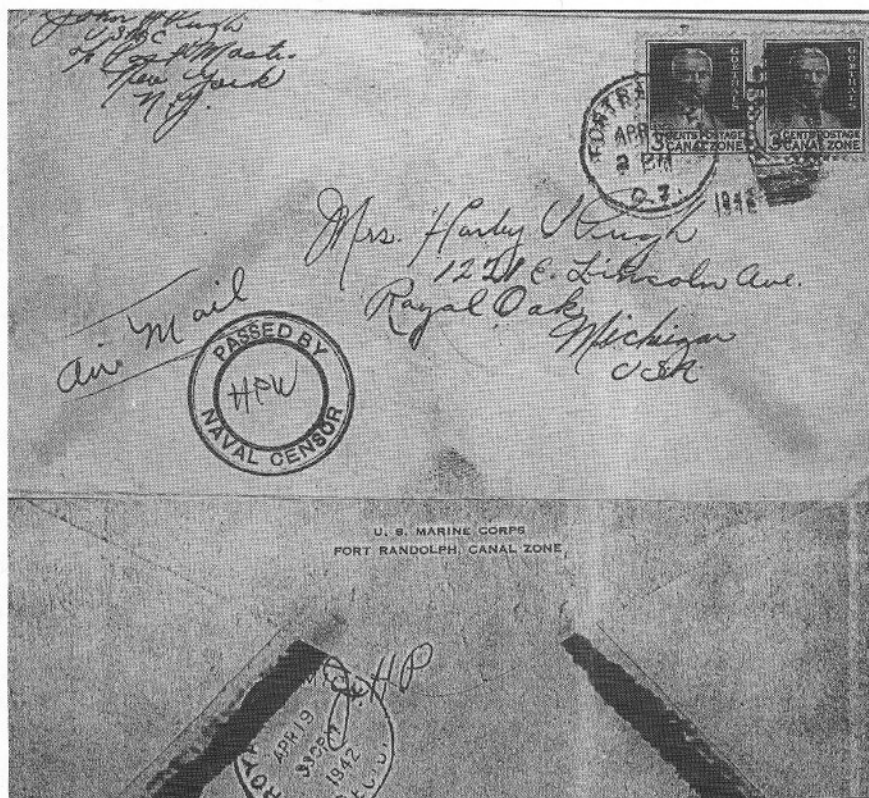
Corp Squadron? The cover was mentioned, but not illustrated.

Does any reader know of mail from the Squadron during their tenure at Fort Randolph? Are there MPO 150 covers? Can you conceive any explanation for this cover other than from the Squadron but using Fort Randolph for postal service? The return address could be MAO (mailing address only) and not have had fiscal services. That is, mail would have been received through the "Care of Postmaster, New York" address, but outgoing mail would have been through whatever base serviced the Squadron.

It's routine for Navy bases to be guarded by Marines. If so, why do we not see USMC corner cards on Navy mail? Do they exist for Navy ship's mail?

Forts Randolph and Sherman guarded the Atlantic entrance to the Canal. Randolph had big (14") disappearing guns that would lift up from behind revetments to fire, then back down again. I presume that Sherman had similar armament. Neither has been fired in combat though they did pass a round or two monthly just to keep the ammunition from getting sensitive.

Can any military specialist enlighten us? Any help at all will be appreciated. Please contact the Editor.



Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

Nearly every auction house worthy of the name held an auction during the second calendar quarter of 1997. Many sales more or less coincided with the PACIFIC 97 show in San Francisco. While no auction managed any great depth of Canal Zone material, scattered better items emerged from consignors eager to take advantage of the extensive attention which an international show evinced.

The selling price is shown first followed by the catalogue value, in parenthesis, from the 1997 Scott's Specialized. The applicable commission is included. Keep in mind that the Scott's values are for hinged stamps prior to number 118.

1a, CANAL ZONE inverted, TG, H, barely F \$288 (\$850) Superior

1 var., used, PANAMA 15mm long, nat. SE, barely F \$196 (\$600) Northland

2, dist. OG, H, F+ \$161 (\$240) Regency

2, F, on bit shortened o/w VF cover Culebra 7/2/04 to Colon \$196 (\$240) Philstamps

3, dist. OG, H, F \$173 (\$425) Regency

6, OG, H, VF \$63 (\$110) Harmer's

7, OG, H, F+ \$242 (\$175) Aldrich

7, OG, NH, F+ \$231 (\$175) Weiss

14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, HR, F \$297 (\$425) Kelleher

15 var., PANAMA 15mm long, OG, H, barely F \$2090 (\$3250) Bennett

21, OG, NH, XF \$33 (\$27.50) Heinrich

31c, booklet pane of 6, handmade, dry OG, NH, F \$187 (\$750) Bennett

32a, vert. pair imperf. horiz., sl. trop. OG, H, F+ to VF \$891 (\$1000) Superior

36a, "10 cts." inverted, OG, H, VF \$440 (\$300) Shreve's

39e, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, H, F+ \$719 (\$700) Ivy & Mader

39e, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, NH (HM in selvage), F margin copy \$368 (\$700) Superior

39f, booklet pane of 6, inverted center and overprint reading down, handmade, perforated margins, TG, H, left perfs. slightly trimmed, staple hole and sm. translucent spot each affect one stamp, o/w VF \$4125 (\$6500) Shreve's

46, OG, NH, F margin copy \$94 (\$180) Weiss

46, OG, NH F+ margin copy \$110 (\$180) Shreve's

47, OG, H, F \$2128 (\$3000) Dutch Country

53c, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, F+ to VF \$462 (\$1000) Paradise Valley

55b, pair, one w/o ovpt., OG, H, F CZSG 55b.I, right stamp w/o ovpt. \$920 (\$1100) Ivy & Mader

58, OG, H, F \$127 (\$275) Northland

60b, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, VF \$440 (\$1000) Paradise Valley

61a, overprint reading down, dry OG, NH, F+ UR corner margin copy \$83 (\$225) Bennett

67a, ZONE CANAL reading down, OG (skips), NH barely F \$165 (\$850) Weiss

73a, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, VG-F, one column of 3 CANAL ZONE overprints shifted up \$299 (\$200) Philstamps

80, OG, NH, VF \$46 (\$70) Kelleher

84a, CANAL only, OG, H, tiny thin, nat. SE, o/w VF w/ margin \$700 (\$1500) USPPS Mail Sale

85a, ZONE ZONE, OG, HR, F. in bl. 8 w/ 7 normals \$320 (\$528) USPPS Mail Sale

91c, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, barely F \$88 (\$200) Bennett

94, OG, HR, F \$69 (\$250) Regency

94, used, barely F, \$32 (\$165) Northland

95, OG, H, VF+ \$81 (\$125) Harmer's

98, OG, NH, VF pl. bl. of 4, #18445 UR, \$115 (\$120) Aldrich

157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, VF margin copy \$5060 (\$7000) Superior

157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, VF bl. of 6 including the #168153 pl. bl. of 4, \$49,500 (\$n/a) R.A. Siegel

C2, OG, H, VF \$66 (\$100) Heinrich

J3, OG, H, F \$418 (\$900) Kelleher

J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, TG, H, nat. SE, a perf. disk inclusion o/w F in pair w/normal \$489 (\$450) Ivy & Mader

J17, TG, H, F+ to VF pl. bl. of 6 \$15512-L \$231 (\$550) Kelleher

J18a, ZONE ZONE, OG, NH, some perf. seps. o/w VF in bl. 9 w/ 8 normals \$1495 (\$1314) Harmer's

J20, OG, NH, VF+ \$219 (\$150) Ivy & Mader

O8, CTO, OG, H, F+ \$489 (\$675) Ivy & Mader

O8, CTO, OG, H, barely F \$297 (\$675) Bennett

U14, mint, few light envelope indentations o/w F-VF \$198 (\$450) Bennett

UX5, mint, light thinning on reverse, o/w VF \$468 (\$1100) Bennett

-----, Ocean to Ocean Submarine Mail 5/7/19 VF \$105 (\$n/a) Weiss

The addresses of the auction houses mentioned in this column are shown in previous issues.

Notes From The Editor

(Continued from page 25)

Much of my "agenda" has been accomplished; many articles have not yet reached the draft stage. My initial objective was to broaden the interest of Canal Zone collectors by presenting a broad spectrum of Canal Zone philately, with enough fly-specking to appease the experts. My feeling was that as most of the spaces are filled in (in traditional collecting) interest is maintained by spreading out into the many facets of Canal Zone stamp collecting. In the past five years we have addressed an array from air flights to Christmas Seals used on the Zone. In addition there were a lot of odd balls thrown in, Canal Zone Abroad, Foreign Navals, Military Postal Markings, Gorgas Hospital's Demise, Labels, Reply Cards, IRC Coupons, Autographs, Panama Lindbergh, — some of these might not make the cut with the purists. I collect them all, including the non-philatelic such as license plates, railroad ties and iron, rock samples from the bottom of Culebra Cut, ICC crockery, Washington Hotel candelabra, souvenir spoons, and the maps, coins and medals, and literature. All in all, the big picture.

The relief from this burden will allow time for the completion of a number of other CZSG projects. *Canal Zone Aero-philately* has been dormant for the past 5 years. It will not take much to get this into publishable form. The other magnum opus is an *Annotated Bibliography of Canal Zone Philately*, still in its formative stages but with a mass of material to incorporate. Our membership has helped considerably on both of these projects.

And, Canal Zone does not look like a dead country. The deactivation of military and U.S. related activities has had a reflection in postal matters. The "Last Days" of some of the APOs has stimulated interest in their earlier days. Strangely there has been little interest in the former post offices taken over by the Republic of Panama. I would predict that Panama covers from these offices from the days following takeover will soon be sought after rarities. The Panama post offices on U.S. military bases existed even before the 1979 closure of the Canal Zone postal services.

This is not my "swan song" or retirement. I will pleased to continue as an associate editor, contributor, and/or a back room text editor, but not as managing editor. I've had too much fun, found a lot of friends, learned a lot, and want to stay active, but not as active as over the past 5 years.

Goodbye Gorgas Hospital

by Jeanne Stough

Gorgas Hospital at Ancon in the old Canal Zone, as we knew it, is no more. On June 6, 1997, in accordance with the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaty, it was delivered from the U.S. Government to the Republic of Panama. Why weep — at times it was more like a carnival than a funeral.

The night before, June 5, an informal, out-of-doors, early evening reception was held in the horseshoe patio at the hospital for about 250 VIPs of the USA and RP and me. My grandfather, Patrick Frances Kenealy first went to Panama with Gorgas in 1904, so I wheedled an invitation.

At the foot of the stairs leading to the Administration Building, LTG Ronald R. Blanck, the Army Surgeon General from Washington, DC, presiding, noted that this was a bittersweet occasion and delivered a stirring tribute to the beloved William Crawford Gorgas, for whom the hospital was named. This was the Colonel Gorgas who rid the Isthmus of yellow fever and malaria so the Panama Canal could be built. Others present were BG and Mrs. Harold Timboe, from the Health Services Command, Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas; Col. Wm. Tuer, Medical Activity Panama; Col. Joseph Conner, Dental Activity Panama; Dr. and Mrs. Rupp, well known old timers on the Isthmus; many eminent doctors and nurses of Panama and the USA; Mr. and Mrs. James O'Donnell, President of the Panama Canal Society of Florida; the Honorable Lady Mayor of Panama City, the very popular Mayin Correa, thought to be going to run for President next time; Charles J. Williams, the last Manager of the PRR, and his wife Beverly Chan Williams, the last Librarian of the Canal Zone; and Nurse Betty Snow. No name tags — it was getting dark and I may have missed a few.

Night fell and looming large above the guests, all I could see, up the hill, were the landmark twin towers, eerily floodlit in the tropical night. The sweet smell of Gorgas's favorite ilang ilang was everywhere and his ghost seemed to whisper encouragingly, "I shall prevail".

From 1977 to 1997 Gorgas Hospital was known as the Gorgas Army Community Hospital, the responsibility of the U.S. Army Medical and Dental Commands with the specialized insignia shown in Figs. 1 and 2. For the Medical Command the fountain, heraldic symbol of water, refers to the Panama Canal. The divided fountain represents a canal lock. Colors are the maroon and white of MC, and red, white, and blue of the United States. The demisun of the Dental Command alludes to the healing powers of the sun (with an appropriate halo of eleven teeth) over the

mountains of Panama. The wavy bars suggest the canal.

These commands included the Hospital of Gorgas and Coco Solo, Corozal Mental Health Center, Health Centers at Fort



Fig. 1. Insignia, Medical Command.

Gulick, Fort Clayton, Fort Davis, Fort Sherman, Fort Dobbe, and two Veterinary Activities at Mindi and Corozal, all answerable to the U.S. Army Health Services Command in San Antonio, Texas.

An Inactivation Ceremony of these commands took place the morning of June 6 at Soldier's Field, Fort Clayton. The invitation and program is shown as Figs. 3 and 4. It rained, that glorious Chagres rain, but the show went on and soon the sun came out; nothing stops for rain in Panama. After this ceremony a reception was held at the Valent Recreation Center at Fort Clayton.

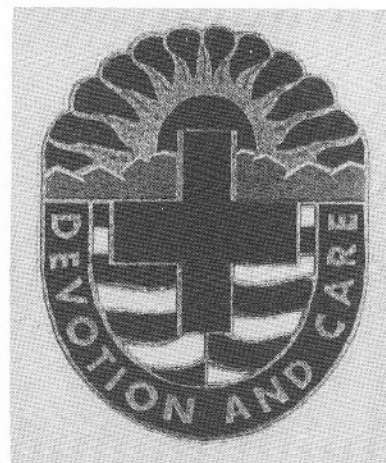


Fig. 2. Insignia, Dental Command.

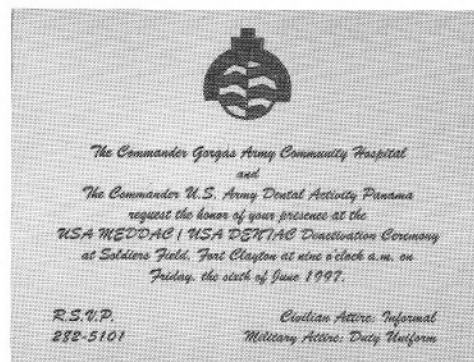


Fig. 3. De-activation Invitation.

The last event was an "Evening of Gala" dinner-dance, \$18 each, June 6 for 450 guests, held at the elegant Union Club in Panama City, Fig. 5. Col. Tuer introduced the visiting dignitaries and welcomed the many eminent doctors and nurses who had practiced at Gorgas Hospital through the years. The lively

(Continued on page 34)

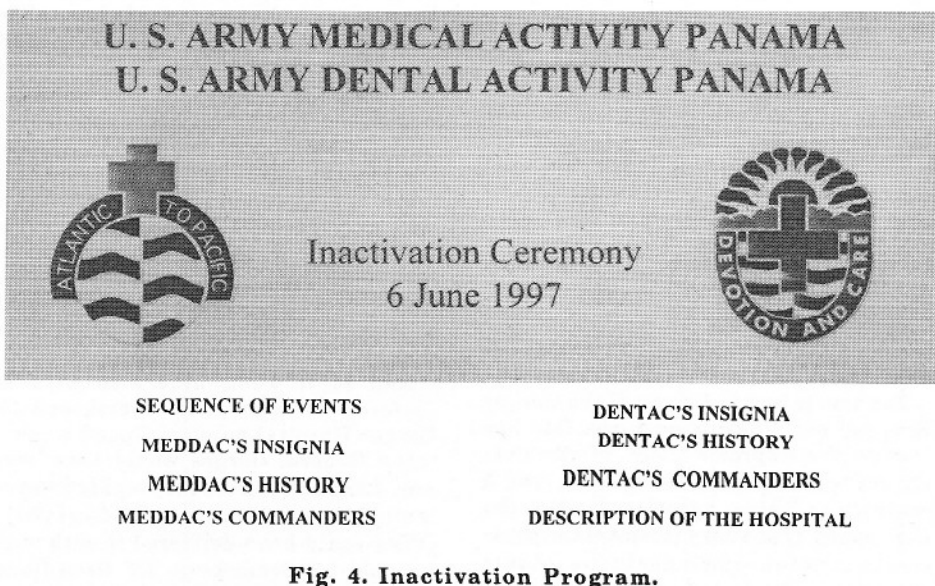


Fig. 4. Inactivation Program.

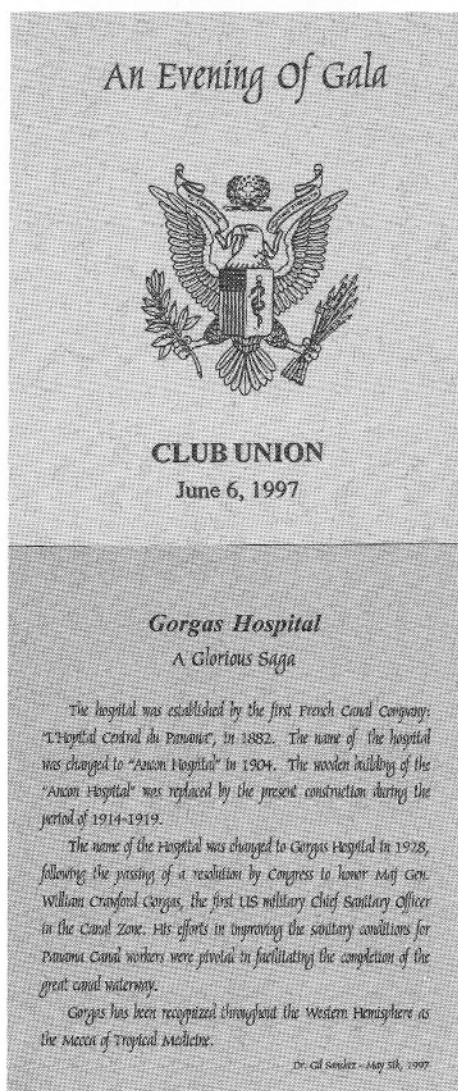


Fig. 5. Evening of Gala.

music was by Sandra Sandoval, named Woman of the Year in Panama for her popular original cumbias (dances).

The memory of Gorgas lives on in Canal Zone postage stamps: Scott #105, 148, and C33. A total of 400 covers/post cards were hand cancelled at the various APO post offices: APO 34001 Howard AFB, APO 34002 Albrook AFB, and APO 32004 Fort Clayton. They are illustrated in the previous issue of CZP 123:22 and available. See CZP 123:24.

Panama is putting many of the Gorgas Hospital buildings to good use. One has become the Supreme Court of Panama; the morgue has been taken over, and a contract is being negotiated with the U.S.-based Transitory Hospital Corporation to turn the remainder into a private substance abuse and psychiatric care clinic. Last year an advisory inspection with recommendations was accomplished by a prominent U.S. hospital architect, Mr. Donald C. Axson, AIA, of Los Angeles,

California. Architect Axson presented a number of options for the use of the facility, many of which are being implemented.

An additional item of interest was a trip made to the U.S. Army Jungle Operations Training Battalion, Fort Sherman, Panama, APO AA 34005-5000, Fig. 6.

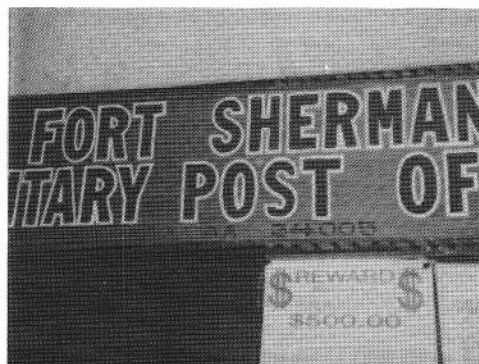


Fig. 6. Fort Sherman APO.

This is the last installation the USA maintains on the Atlantic Side. It is remote; since the new treaty nearly 20 years ago, many on the Pacific Side have never been there, and most, knowing the traffic on the Transisthmian Highway don't want to go. Old Timers may recall it is next to Shimmy Beach, a once popular recreation spot of Zonians. It was a two-hour trip, a harrowing ride with a small Howard taxi and brave driver, over 40 miles of solid but congested highway. I asked the savvy driver, Why did they not maintain the Panama Railroad to carry all these passengers and relieve the traffic on the highway? He answered with the most logic I have heard for the demise of the PRR. "No, señora, the train did not go to the towns where the people need to go," — across soggy Gatun Locks, the car almost touching the water, to the West Bank, then a deserted single-lane eight miles through the cool jungle to Fort Sherman on the coast and a beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean. It was worth it.

The Fort Sherman Military Post Office, APO AA 34005, was supposed to open at 10 a.m.; the Postmistress came strolling in and opened at 10:45 with a nonchalance that only too many generations in the tropics can explain. Then she made up for it with kindness and charm, letting me cancel as many covers as I pleased with a worn out rubber stamp hanging in threads.

And so it went, otherwise with no fanfare, no press, no photographers, Gorgas Hospital quietly slipped away. I think General Gorgas would have been proud and would have thoroughly enjoyed it all. Only the fine, young Medical Corps Office could have delivered it with such aplomb. LT Schomberg, LT Drouillard, Major Castro, and others, not burdened with fond memories, brought it off with great style and attention to duty. Only among the older attendees were there

some tears, gnashing of teeth, and we certainly know how they must have felt in Hong Kong.

On the way to Fort Sherman I stopped at Monkey Hill, the Mount Hope Cemetery on the Atlantic Side, looking for Grandpa Kenealy's grave. Now run by the Republic of Panama, Mount Hope is huge, much larger than the USA-run Corozal on the Pacific Side and contains the graves from "the beginning," at least from the Panama Railroad construction days of the 1850's. At the front entrance I found the old familiar concrete arch but the wooden side buildings are gone; at the rear I found a very kind, obliging lady keeper-of-the-records in a small humble office building, no computers, no air conditioning. The records are kept in huge ledgers by date of internment, one ledger per decade.

For two hours we poured through the ledgers and roamed through the headstones out in the cemetery. Not sure of the date he died, I never did find Grandpa Kenealy. However, I did see English, French, USA, Spanish, the deceased of all countries of the world, buried for over 150 years; he is in good company. It was June, the grass green and cut, trees full of orchids, lettering on gravestones fading fast. I don't know how Grandpa Kenealy feels but I wouldn't mind being buried there. It was quite lovely and certainly fascinating.

My three-week stay wound up with a meeting of the Sociedad Filatelica de Panama and this was a real treat. Such beautiful people; I can't believe I finally met, in person, Virginia de Soberanis, George Lopp, Niki Liakopulos, and many others I had only heard about for years. They miss the Canal Zone and I am sorry to say they seem to have lost interest in Canal Zone philately, but they are delighted with promises of the new U.S. Postal Service stamp, "The Panama Canal," due out about the first of the year. This club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Mezzanine of the Lizak Building, Calle 50 and Aquilino de la Guardia. They are second to none in kindest hospitality, welcomed visitors, and I left lots of applications for CZSG membership. For information, call (507) 263-9323.

It is thrilling to arrive by plane in Panama today. The commercial airlines are allowed to fly low over the full length of the Panama Canal so be sure to get a window seat. I remember when we were not allowed to do this.

This report is beginning to sound like a travelogue so I shall wind up with this: The Executive Hotel, Tel: (507) 264-3333, FAX 269-1944, gives the best of service with a personal touch. They still love Americans; can't help it. If you don't speak Spanish, they speak English. The telephone system is quaint but efficient; I spent so much time on the telephone that

(Continued on page 35)

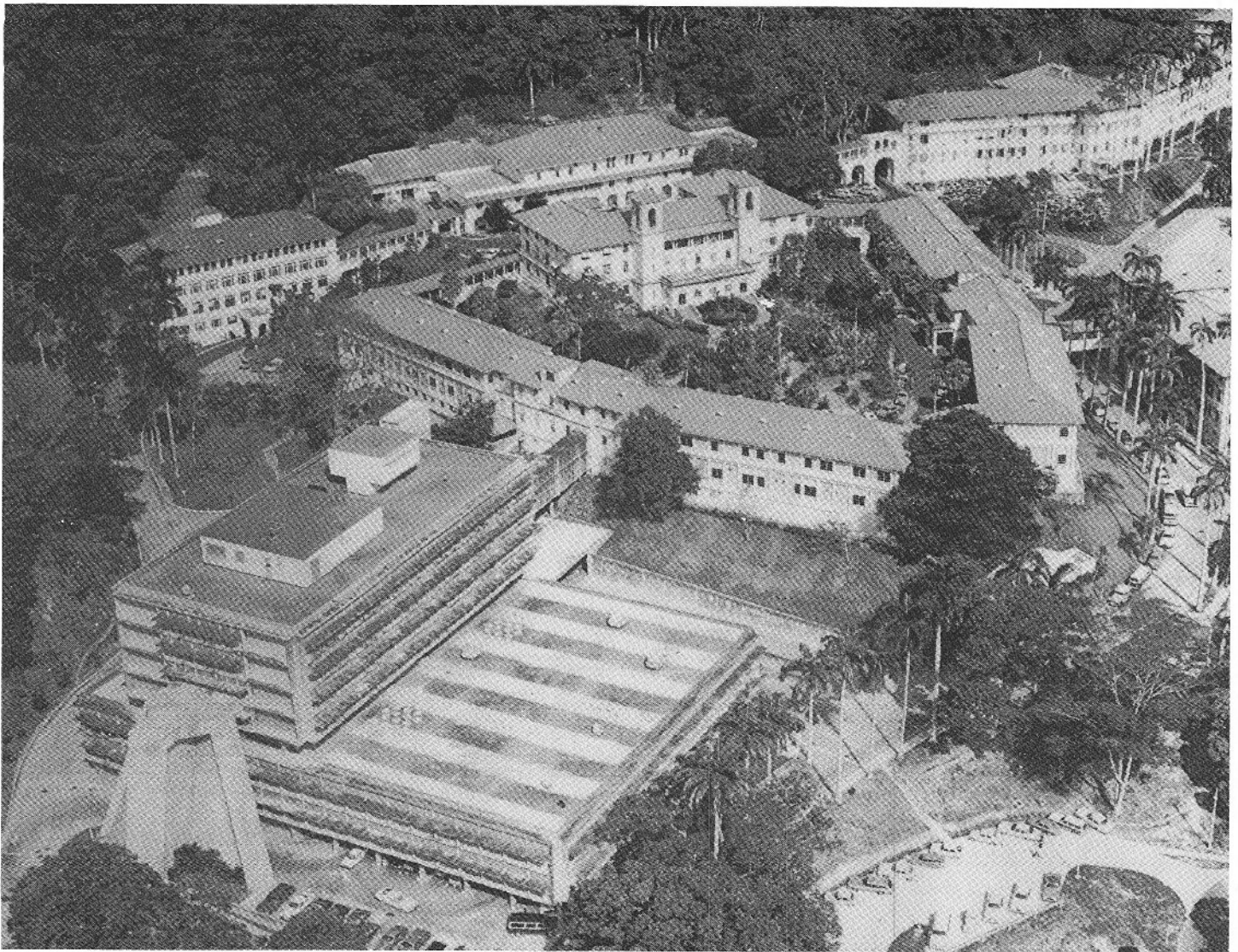


Fig. 7. Gorgas Hospital today. Tropical Medical Institute in foreground.

(Continued from page 34)

the hotel operator started calling me, "Doña Jeanne." Happy traveling to Panama; it's lots more than a canal.

[Editor's Note: As an ex-Zonian, with ties nearly as old as Jeanne's I almost feel that I was also there for the occasion. Shimmy Beach was a high school romp, but access was not by car. The Coast Artillery ran a commute boat from Fort DeLesseps (next door to the Washington Hotel in Colon) to Fort Sherman. It was a daily chore for Sherman's school kids, and an occasional Saturday beach party for the other Atlantic Side residents. There were no clean beaches near Cristobal or Colon as both discharged raw sewage into Limon Bay. Shimmy was a nice, sandy beach away from the contamination. On my last trip there, many decades back, I and another adventuresome buddy walked the power line trail back the six miles to the hydroelectric power house at

the base of Gatun Dam. The walk was burdensome, since hidden in my lunch bag was a 14 pound cannon ball, souvenir of Morgan's 15th Century raid on Fort San Lorenzo at the mouth of the Chagres River. The cannon ball is still serving, as a door stop in my den. It too has had a history, and is responsible to one casualty. My then 10 year old son dropped it on his foot. The attending (ex-Naval) surgeon confessed that it was the first cannon ball wound that he had ever treated, and wondered, since it was a weapon, should he report it to the police.

I too have memories of Gorgas Hospital — it was Ancon Hospital in my day. I had surgery there at about age 14. The fabulous Dr. Earhart, worshiped by both patients and nurses, stood over me as I succumbed to ether, with his usual big, fat, black cigar — the last thing I remembered going under. And, as I awoke, many hours later (it was dark), but there was Dr. Earhart with that same damn big,

fat, black cigar. I am still positive that as he operated it never left his mouth.]

Cacheted covers commemorating Gorgas' closure were illustrated in CZP 123:22 and advertised on the back cover, CZP 123:24.

Winners

LINPEX 97, Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society, Lincoln, Nebraska, February 1997. Vermeil Award to Robert C. Dreibus, "Panama Canal Zone, 1904-1975".

APS STAMPSHOW 97, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 1997. Silver-bronze Award in Literature (Articles and Columns), to David J. Leeds, James W. Crumpacker, Irwin Gibbs, Gary B. Weiss, and David T. Zemer, for the series of articles "American Bank Note Company, Canal Zone Specimens".

ROSTOCK STAMP SHOW (former East Germany). August 1997. Vermeil Award to Gernot Stephan for "Panama Canal Zone, the Postage Stamps 1904-1978".

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Scott 39a, Reprise

Scott 39a, pair, one without overprint was discussed several issues back, CZP 121:44. At that time we indicated that the existence and location of only one partial sheet of 80 of the left hand error was known. As indicated, Shreve Auctions had offered it, from the Helme collection. The partial sheet contained 8 left hand error pairs from the lower 8 rows of the sheet. The location of the two top pairs is still unknown. The partial sheet of 80 was sold to a Pacific Coast member and has been broken up. Rows 3 through 8 now exist as single rows of 10 stamps, the left stamp without overprint, and the right selva with partial CANAL. Rows 9 and 10 remain intact, in the album of one of our members. Row 5 was offered as a lot in the current CZSG Mail Sale.

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